



CANADIAN COAST GUARD – INSHORE RESCUE BOATS

Since 1972, the Canadian Coast Guard has strengthened its search and rescue capabilities on the west coast with a number of inshore rescue boats. These highly maneuverable vessels provide search and rescue coverage in areas of high vessel concentrations between May and September. Approximately 25% of the marine distress calls received at the Rescue Coordination Centre in Victoria during these months are handled by the inshore rescue stations.

Initially introduced to provide short-range day-light rescue coverage, the inshore rescue boat program has evolved to a twenty-four hour all-weather longer range service in five areas of the British Columbia coast.

Each inshore rescue boat is operated by two – three person crews who work two week rotating shifts. The crews are composed of two students and a regular Coast Guard coxswain. They work an eight hour day and are on standby the remaining 16 hours.

All crew members are trained at the Coast Guard school at Bamfield, British Columbia in seamanship and search and rescue procedures. In addition to holding a first aid certificate and restricted radio operators certificate, they must also qualify as a Canadian Coast Guard Courtesy Small Vessel Examiner.

The inshore rescue boats are Canadian built rigid hull inflatables. These 5.5 and 7.5 meter vessels have a fiberglass deep "V" hull with conventional inflatable tubes attached. Flexible sides allow them to go alongside other craft without sustaining or causing damage and people can be picked up out of the water with a minimum of difficulty.

The inshore rescue boats are either powered by two 70 hp engines and run at a top speed of 30 knots, or twin 140 hp sea drives at a speed of 40 knots. They have a six hour range at moderate speeds.

Distress frequencies on VHF and CB radios are monitored while the crew is on shift or on patrol. Other search and rescue equipment includes a

fire pump; a folding stretcher; first aid equipment including oxygen; and 300,000 candle-powered search lights.

The crews of the vessels are involved in Coast Guard boating safety and education programs aimed at reducing the number of search and rescue incidents. Boaters are encouraged to call on the inshore rescue stations for a courtesy examination. This examination determines whether or not the vessels carry the required safety equipment; if a boat passes the examination, a decal is issued. Similar examinations are available upon request for small fishing vessels (under 15 tons).

INSHORE RESCUE BOAT STATIONS

501 – Victoria
503 – Gabriola Island
505 – Pender Harbour
508 – Port McNeill
509 – Desolation Sound

For further information, contact:

Regional Manager	OR	Public Affairs
Search & Rescue		Transport Canada
Vancouver, B.C.		Vancouver, B.C.
(604) 666-0146		(604) 984-3708

Canadian Coast Guard Search and Rescue Vessels

NAME	TYPE	LENGTH	BASE
George E. Darby	600 Class Cutter	56 m	Victoria
Racer	R Class Cutter	29 m	Victoria
Ready	R Class Cutter	29 m	Victoria
Point Henry	400 Class Cutter	21 m	Prince Rupert
Point Race	400 Class Cutter	21 m	Campbell River
CG Bull Harbour	Lifeboat	13.4 m	Bull Harbour
CG Tofino	Lifeboat	13.4 m	Tofino
CB Bamfield	Lifeboat	13.4 m	Bamfield
Osprey	Rescue Boat	12.4 m	Kitsilano
Mallard	Rescue Boat	12.4 m	Powell River
Skua	Rescue Boat	12.4 m	Ganges
Swift	Launch	8 m	Kitsilano
Teal	Rescue Boat	8 m	Kitsilano
CG 039	SRN6 Hovercraft	14.7 m	Vancouver
CG 045	SRN6 Hovercraft	14.7 m	Vancouver/Parksville
CG 086	SRN6 Hovercraft	14.7 m	Vancouver



**Canadian
Coast Guard**

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